

GAMING ON LINUX

The tastiest brain candy to relax those tired neurons



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Liam Dawe is our Games Editor and the founder of gamingonlinux.com, the home of Tux gaming on the web.

Linux Gaming seems to be stronger than ever, but a question that has been plaguing us recently is; will we ever hit over 2% market share for gamers?

We have all genres of games now gracing our platform, but the uptake doesn't seem to be going anywhere just yet.

We have Valve singing our praises to developers, and GOG supporting us with some classic games to help build up our back catalogue as well, and many other smaller stores are also now supporting Linux.

Until the day your average Joe (sorry Joe, but you're not very tech smart!) can walk into their local PC store and have Linux thrust in their face the same way Windows is, it's possible our day will never come.

We've had a few small breakthroughs recently, with games like *Football Manager* having a Linux icon directly on the games box, and even on their big posters at game stores around the world. It may be small, but getting the Linux icon out there in major stores may cause more people to find out what it is. Never underestimate the small things.

We also need people to make sure they only buy Linux games once the Linux version is available; all too often we see people getting burned by developers who promise a Linux version, and then it never comes. This is a repeating problem, and one we should avoid creating for ourselves.

What are your thoughts? Do you agree with us, or do you think we are completely off the mark here?

War Thunder

Linux finally has another good quality MMO.

War Thunder is a completely free-to-play massively multiplayer online (MMO) game, which is one of its main draws. However, free-to-play games often turn into what people call "pay 2 win", meaning people who put real money into it for extras gain the upper hand. Thankfully that's not quite the case here.

War Thunder is a mixture of intense aeroplane and land-based tank battles. You don't have to spend a penny to get any enjoyment out of it based on our testing. If you enjoy flying around smashing other human players out of the sky, then this is the game you have been waiting for.

There's no launcher just yet, so if you download it directly from Gaijin Entertainment's website, it's advisable to run it in your terminal to watch the progress. The download is actually an updater you need to run, which downloads the rest of the game. The game is also on Steam, so getting it there does make it easier.

Even with the excellent graphics, the performance of the game is stellar too, so overall the Linux port does seem very well done. The control system is one of the best things about it



as the aeroplanes are very easy to control and it makes flying a real pleasure.

There are masses of planes and tanks to choose from and, as you play more games, you unlock different nations each with their own set of units for you to try out.

The game can be quite overwhelming at the start, due to the underwhelming tutorial, which only really teaches you the basics of flight and combat, and doesn't explain much about the research and unlocking of new vehicles.

Developer Gaijin Entertainment Release Date
6 November 2014 Website <http://warthunder.com>



Don't blame us if you get addicted – War Thunder is quite the time sink.

"If you enjoy flying around smashing other players out of the sky, this is the game you have been waiting for."

Icewind Dale: Enhanced Edition

A crime for RPG fans to pass up.

Icewind Dale is probably a name a lot of our older readers remember as it originally came out in 2000. Thankfully some developers do go back to older games and bring them to newer game engines to support not just newer computers, but better operating systems like Linux too.

It's a role playing game from a top-down perspective, so it doesn't change any of the main features of the original release, but merely cleans it up for modern gaming. It does however include new content, like new spells, items, armour and weapons.

One of the best features of the new edition is the ability to play co-operative with your friends across Linux, Mac & Windows online. One thing that hasn't changed is the graphics; they're still low resolution compared to today's games, and it looks a little dated. Luckily though, part of the upgrade included making it fit nicely on high screen resolutions.

Fans of games like *Baldur's Gate* and other 2D RPG's will fall in love with it.

Developer Beamdog Release Date 30 October
2014 Website <http://icewinddale.com>



A party-based RPG,
no lone wolves here.

Dead Island

Get ready for the zombie apocalypse.

Do you love zombies? Good, as *Dead Island* has them in spades. This highly popular zombie smashing RPG isn't your conventional zombie game either, as the main focus of it is the melee combat.

It's aimed at a mature audience, so we wouldn't go putting it on while you have any younger members of your family running around as it's pretty much guaranteed to give them nightmares.

Unlike *Left 4 Dead* from Valve, *Dead Island* is an "open world" zombie game, so you don't have defined paths to follow; you can go wherever you see fit to find gear, smash zombies and complete quests.

The game gets quite intense at times, especially if you manage to get surrounded, and, as ammunition is a tight resource, a lot of the time you really do need to use a melee weapon, which is not



easy. If you're getting stuck, then why not team up with another friendly penguin gamer? *Dead Island* also includes co-op play for up to four people at a time.

The Linux port isn't without issues though, if you find the graphics look like they are in a very low colour mode, try turning down the gamma.

Developer Techland Release Date 24 October
2014 Website <http://store.steampowered.com/app/91310>

ALSO RELEASED...



Interstellar Marines

Interstellar Marines, the great looking first person shooter, has been updated a few times recently and it now includes some excellent co-op action against evil robots.

One of the new game modes sees you frantically trying to turn the power back on in different sections of the map, but those pesky robots are waiting for you in the dark, and it gets a bit jumpy.

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/236370>



Double Action

Have you ever wanted to shoot someone while smashing through a skyscraper window? *Double Action* has you covered! It's an over-the-top, points-based shooter than can be played in first or third person, and it's hilarious.

It's completely free, with zero features to pay for, now that's what we like to see!
<http://store.steampowered.com/app/317360>



Transistor

If you're in the market for a beautiful and fun action RPG in a sci-fi world then you should stop here. *Transistor* is the next game from the creators of *Bastion*, and with "overwhelmingly positive" reviews on Steam, you can't pass it up. Encouragingly, the graphics are just as stylish as *Bastion*. Enjoy!

<http://store.steampowered.com/app/237930>